

# DENMARK BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

## 150th Anniversary



1848 - 1998

Cutler, IL 62238



The following information was sent to the Church by Ms. Mary Lee Knop Rebholz, after she received an invitation to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming Celebration.

It was written by her mother, Jane Speith Knop.

The Denmark Baptist Church History Book had been assembled prior to receiving the letter, so a copy has been inserted in the book.

To whom it may concern,

Thank you very much for the invitation to the anniversary. I am sorry that I will be unable to attend.

I had no idea the church was that old. As soon as I read it I was reminded of some thoughts my Mother had written while in the nursing home. I am enclosing a condensed version of them. I hope you find this of some interest.

God Bless all of you

Mary Lee Knop Rehholz



Memories of  
Denmark Baptist Church

by Jane Speith Knop

The original church was dedicated as a Baptist Church, although it could have been any other denomination. Itinerant preachers came through the country and preached at a brick church across the road from the present one.

Mr. Axcom, who lived west of the church, donated the land where the church now stands. It was dedicated in 1902. Brother Rendlemen was the Pastor at that time. I was 2 years old. The day of the dedication we all went to Aunt Mary Watkin's for dinner. When Pastor left to go back to church, he picked up my diaper bag instead of his bag. They were both alike. No doubt he had quite a surprise when he opened it.

When I was a girl we went to church in a buggy or a wagon in the hot sun. If we were lucky we had a parasol. When my brother Clarence was old enough, he and my sister Hazel and I would go every Sunday to Sunday School and church. Sometimes when the weather was too bad we didn't go.

My Mom was already a member. I was saved sometime in my teens. We often had revival meetings that lasted 3 weeks. I often think of all the good times and meetings we had in our church. At one time when I was a girl we had 35 young ladies in our Sunday School class. Mrs. Essie Hallbauer was our teacher.

We had 2 stoves in the old church with a pipe running across the room. We nearly froze to death at times.

I well remember the night my father Abe, my brother Clarence and my future husband John became members of the church. Brother Eddy who was very young at that time was our Pastor. Brother Coleman was holding a revival. Both of them came to our house for dinner. It rained all afternoon and of course we only had dirt roads. Mom and I didn't think we would be able to go but Dad said to hurry and get the dishes done so we can go to church. Everyone was happy that we were going. My little brother George sang Daddy O Mine all the way there.

When they gave the invitation that night Dad, Clarence and John as well as a number of others came forward. John and his family had been members of Post Oak Lutheran Church before moving near Denmark.

John and I were married soon after and I was happy to have a Christian home to begin our married life. We lived with his mother Mary in her home. She had been a widow for 23 years.

One of the things that stood out in our church was that we had 2 pews full of older men. That didn't happen in a lot of churches.

Brother Eddy was 18 years old when he was at Denmark. Several years later he fell in the bath tub at his home and broke his neck. He was a very fiery preacher. Our first son Orval was named after him. His middle name was Abraham after his Grandfather.

We took Orval to his first Christmas program after he was born in August. It was so cold that we heated bricks to put under our feet. We had a 1917 Ford with button on side curtains. (Those were the good old days). The church was full that night even though a lot of people had to walk.

Because there were a number of families with small children in the community, we had a big church until they all grew up and went off to World War II.

I guess it was the fist year that Brother Unruh was there we had the Baptist State Convention at our church. We had a big tent south of the church for our cooking and eating space. We had huge crowds all 3 days. Orval and Bud Smith slept in the tent one night. We sure had a grand meeting. Grace Hallbauer and I had such a good time. Wish I could remember more about! We had to carry water from the neighbors. Everyone brought cream cans full from home.

We had Chicken Frys in the summer. They were almost like a Fair. That is the way we paid for our basement. Everyone worked, old and young alike. Lots of people from Pinckneyville, Cutler and other towns came. It was a great home coming time.

In the early 1940's we remodeled the church and added a basement. We then had a kitchen and dining room with new cooking utensils and rugs and runners for the floor.

After that we started feeding the Rotary Club from Pinckneyville. Joe Stotlar was one of them. He was such a jolly person and we always had such a good time when he came. Sometimes they brought along their wives.

We always had a Ladies Aid and did a lot of quilting. Later we became the Mission Society. I was secretary and treasurer of this group for a long time. One time there were 9 of us there. All of us brought a pie, so we had to go over to the store and get some lunch and bread for sandwiches. We sure had fun that day. Ida Mae Smith and Milda Cottom were there. They were always lots of fun.

One time Gilbert Edgar, who was just a little fellow, pulled some hot coffee over on himself. He cried and cried. Everyone was taking turns holding him. When I finally got to hold him he fell asleep in my lap.

The church was struck by lightning the afternoon of June 21, 1942 and burned to the ground. We were just home from church and doing the dinner dishes. I saw the lightning hit the church. Some one called immediately and said the church was burning. Our whole family and all the other families rushed back, but all we could do was watch it burn.

The question was raised about rebuilding and Harry Harding said he didn't want to live in a community without a church. Brother Unruh was the Pastor at that time and had some experience as a carpenter so naturally he was all for rebuilding. Every one else agreed with them so the work began. Everyone from the church as well as our sister churches, neighbors and friends worked very hard to get the work done.

While the church was being built we held services in the Denmark Grade School. The school was quite new as the old one had burned to the ground in a previous summer.

May of the following year the new church was dedicated. Brother Unruh based his sermon that Sunday on Romans 8:28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The last years I lived at Denmark, after my children were gone I would bake cookies for Bible School. The children were all so happy to receive them and would always thank me for them.

In 1963 we moved to Willlisville. We eventually moved our membership there. John died soon after, so I was glad I could walk to church. I still called Denmark Baptist my church, because that is where I went all of my life. Everyone was always so good to me and came to visit me in the nursing home.

**Denmark Baptist Church  
2262 Pyatt-Cutler Road  
Cutler IL 62238**

**Organized in 1848**

**Randy Johnson, Pastor  
Phone: (618)497-2752**

**Worship Service**

**Sunday School ----- 9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Worship ----- 10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship ----- 7:00 P.M.**

# **Denmark Baptist Church History 150th Anniversary**

## **Theme Song - Family of God**

**I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God,  
I've been washed in the fountain,  
cleansed by His-blood!**

**Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.**

## **Theme Verse - Hebrews 12:1**

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sins that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**

## **Motto**

**Looking back for strength to go forward.**

## **Colors**

**Purple, Gold and White**

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## **DEDICATION**

**This book is dedicated to the memory of those who have served the church faithfully in the past, to those who are serving the church in the present and to those who will serve the church in the future. Many have made valuable contributions to the church. Faithful Pastors, teachers, musicians, deacons, trustees, committees and all who were in the past and present faithful in attendance and support of the church. May we continue in the future to share God's Word and Love. To God be the Glory given.**

### **BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS**

**Blest Be the Tie that Binds – Our heart in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that Above.**

**Before our Father's throne, we pour our ardent prayers; our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

**When we a-sunder part. It gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again. Amen**

## **APPRECIATION**

**Thank you to the present members, former members and families of deceased members, who shared their stories, pictures and other items from the church's past. Each has been an important part in putting this book together.**

## **150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

**Lorna Edgar  
Pastor Randy Johnson  
Darlene Misselhorn  
Ruth Mohr  
Clarence Schorn  
Mary Valerius**

**This history was written and typed by Darlene Misselhorn and Paula Fisher. We hope that the information is a blessing and joy to all who read it.**

## **PURPOSE**

**The purpose of this Church shall be to maintain public services for the worship of God and the teaching and preaching of the Gospel, and in general, to promote the interests of the Kingdom of God according to the teaching of the Scriptures.**

## **CHURCH COVENANT**

**Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.**

**We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.**

**We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our department; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.**

**We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.**

**We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.**

## DENMARK

The little town of Denmark had its beginning in the early 1800's. It was a part of Perry County, which, when laid off in precincts, became the southwestern precinct. At one time Denmark and Willisville were both in the southwestern precinct, and Willisville residents had to go to Denmark to vote. Eventually the southwestern precinct was divided into two precincts.

Families came to homestead the area from parts of the country and other states. It is told that some came from New York, Kentucky, Tennessee and South Carolina, as well as other countries to settle in the Denmark Area.

John D. Rees was among the first to settle in Denmark and at the time he settled there it became know as John's Town and then at a later date it was called Jack's town. John D. Rees married Polly Short. They moved to Denmark where they farmed and owned a store. John Rees laid out the town and it was surveyed and plotted in 1860. John Rees built the first house in Johns Town, (Denmark). He opened the first store. There was also a post office kept by a Mr. Brown. The post office was eventually moved to the dress making shop of Mary Rees. It was the only post office between Chester and DuQuoin. A Mr. Short operated one of the first grocery and dry goods store. In that time you could buy most all of your needs in one store. Clothing, material, shoes, hardware, dishes, kerosene lamps, sugar, flour and many other items a pioneer family would need was for trade or sale. Most families traded cream, milk, butter, and eggs to pay for their own needs and supplies for their homes.

There also was a dress-maker, wagon maker and a black smith shop. All the businesses and supplies that would be needed by a farming family and residents of a small town.

John Rees served as a Lt. Col. in the Mexican War. He helped to raise Company A for the 31st Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War. He was wounded on June 25, 1863, during the battle at Vicksburg, Mississippi. He died from his wounds on July 1, 1863. His body was brought back to Denmark and buried under a pine tree that had been set in the yard of his home. His body was later disinterred and moved along side his wife at the Pinckneyville City Cemetery.

Chris Wittmac, who came from the country of Denmark and settled in the area of John's Town, did not like that name so the people named it Denmark for Mr. Wittmac and it has been Denmark ever since.

Mr. Wittmac came to Denmark in the 1890's. He owned a small General store. Mr. Wittmac died in 1908, but had sold his store before his death. There were others who owned the store in later years. John Higgerson bought the store in 1935. He owned the store until 1973, when Harvey Mitchell bought it. It was opened until 1977. Part of the lot has been sold to Denmark Baptist Church for parking area.

## SCHOOL

The first school was built west of Denmark. It was a one room country school that met the needs of the children that attended. Wesley Heine, Earla Bigham Heisner and Alice Tessier Green and others attended the Denmark School and shared some of their memories.

The front of the school faced east. There was a pot belly stove in one corner and in the opposite end of the room in a corner stood the bucket that held their drinking water. There was a chalk board in the front of the room. They had Christmas programs and spelling bees along with other fun times. They carried their lunches to

school and warmed soup on the stove. When the weather permitted they ate their lunches outdoors in the school yard. Some of the fun things they did was wrap the May Pole. On the last day of school they had an all day picnic.

As there was no plumbing at that time there were outdoor privies, one for the girls and one for the boys.

There was a coal shed built onto the outside of the school to keep there winter supply of coal out of the weather. There also was a pony shed built at the school for Robert Campbell's pony. Robert was crippled and used a pony cart to get to school. Most children walked to school or rode in buggies.

Alice Green told the story of a horse her family owned. It's name was Old Black Fan. As Alice lived in Denmark, she said to get to school she had to cross a creek, and when the creek was too full to walk across, her dad would put a bridle on Old Black Fan and the horse would carry the children across the creek. They would take turns riding on the horse and send him back to the other side to get more children until they were all across the creek. They then would fasten up the halter, slap the horse on the rear and he would go home to the corral gate. Alice's father would be waiting to put the horse in the corral.

Some of the teachers that taught at the Denmark School that were mentioned were Miss Bradshaw, Maude Brown, Eva Egbert, Ella Geilow, Eula Barrow, John Alex Bigham, Riley Jenkins, Milo Richmond and Jean Hallbauer. There were others but their names are unknown.

Each child left the school with knowledge and memories of friends, teachers, and happy times. School years are an important part of growing up.

## **CHURCHES**

At one time Denmark had three churches. The Methodist, Presbyterian and the Baptist. Over the years the Methodist and Presbyterian churches declined in membership and the brick Presbyterian church was sold to the Denmark Baptist Church. They used it until 1902 when they constructed a new frame building.

## **CEMETERIES**

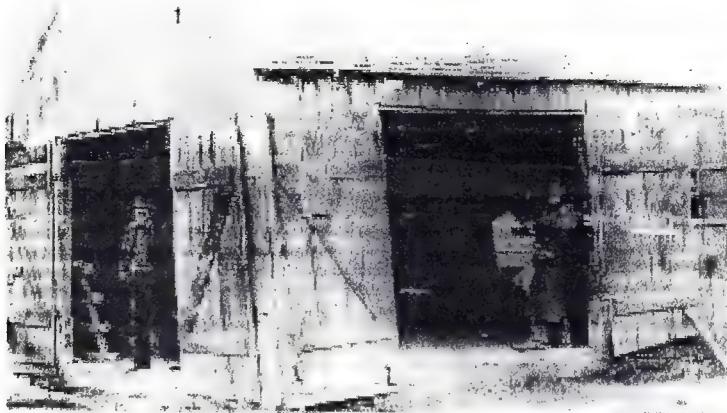
There are three cemeteries in the Denmark area. They are the Bradley Cemetery, west of Denmark, the Cottom Cemetery, east of Denmark, and the Weitzel Cemetery, north-west of Denmark.

## **COAL MINES**

Chester Higgerson and his brother, Clifford operated a shaft coal mine on the east edge of Denmark for several years. After the Guffy Coal Act and its regulations took effect, the Higgersons closed the mine and Chester sold his home to the Denmark Baptist Church for its first parsonage.

Most of the farmland around Denmark was sold to mining companies, Amax Coal Co. and Arch of Illinois, who over the years have stripped the coal reserves. Denmark is now home to a few families and the Denmark Baptist Church, which has members that come from Denmark and the surrounding small towns and farms.

## DENMARK COMMUNITY



Blacksmith Shop



General Store  
and  
Post Office

## DENMARK COMMUNITY



Higgerson Store



Higgerson Store  
Grace

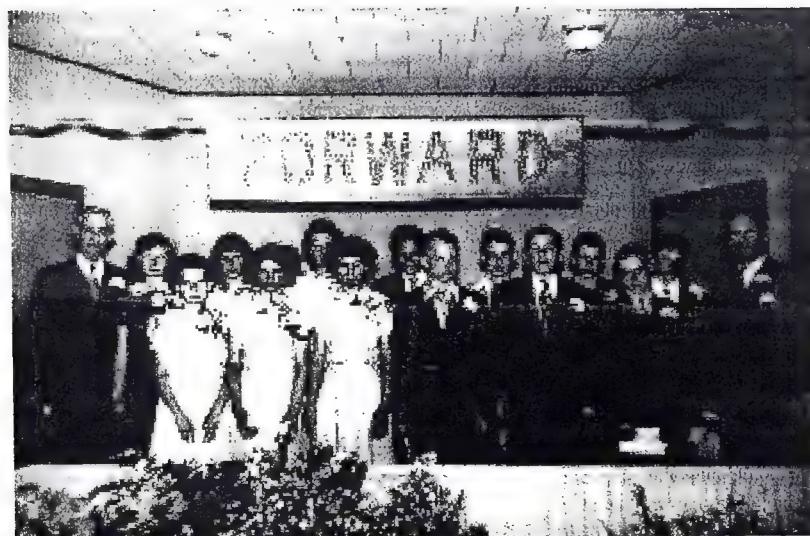


Aerial View  
of Denmark

## DENMARK COMMUNITY

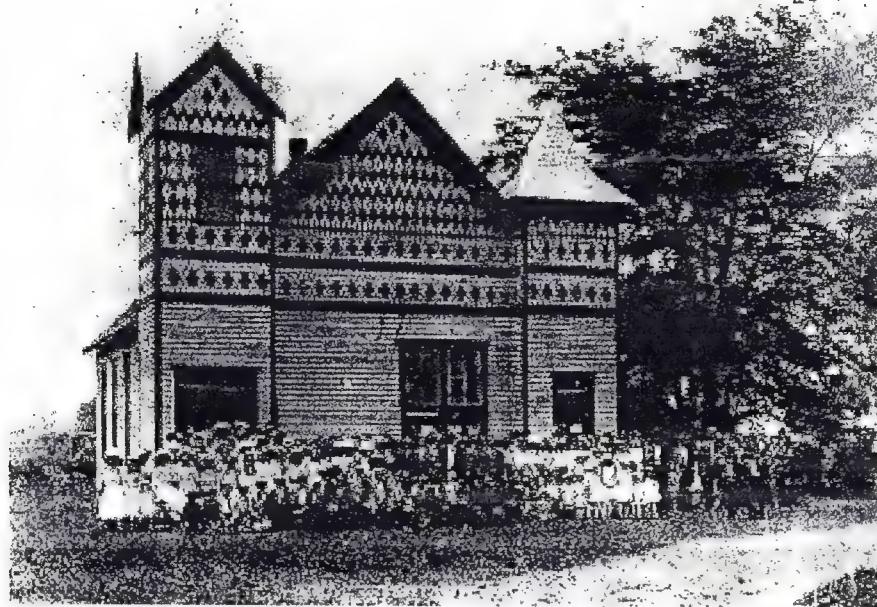


Girls Outside



8th Grade  
Graduation

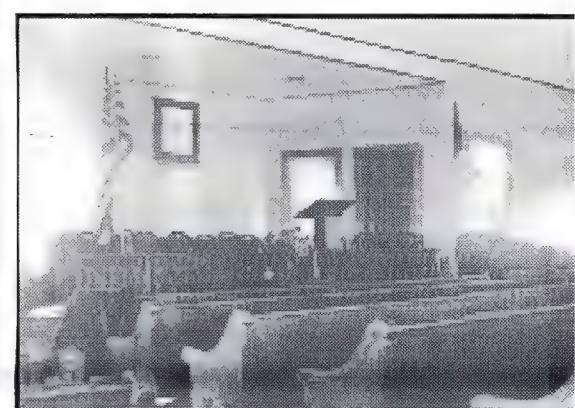
## DENMARK BAPTIST CHURCH



Old Old Church



The Old Building



Old Interior

## DENMARK BAPTIST CHURCH

The Denmark Baptist Church, first called the Pipestone Church, was organized in 1848 in the home of E.T. Rees. Services were held in the home of members for some time.

The church belonged to the Nine-Mile Association and under Rev. Henry Gordon serving as Pastor, a controversy over open communion in the Looney Springs Baptist Church at Campbell Hill occurred. The Pipestone Baptist Church, Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church near Rockwood, a new Baptist Church at Georgetown that Rev. Gordon started, along with the Looney Springs Baptist Church withdrew from the Nine Mile Association.

In 1851, Rev. Gordon organized the four churches into an association called The Southern Illinois Association of Free Will Communion. "Free Will Baptist Churches"

The Free Will Baptist Churches eventually merged with the American Baptist Denomination. Other churches in the Denmark Area were the Methodist who organized in 1930, the Presbyterians followed the Methodist and Baptist churches by organizing a church in 1868. They built a brick building in Denmark. Some time later the Pipestone Baptist Church purchased the brick building from the Presbyterian Church. The Baptist held services in the brick building until 1902.

In 1901 a new frame building was built across the street to the West of the brick church on a lot donated by A.J. Axum. Rev. A. J. Rendleman was Pastor at the time of its erection. On March 22, 1902 the members of Pipestone Baptist Church met in the Old Brick Church building in response to a call made by Deacon R.A. Bradley for the purpose of voting for a minister to preach the dedicatorial sermon for the building. Deacon Bradley stated the object of the meeting and read the church covenant.

Nominations were called for and Rev. A.J. Rendleman, Rev. G.A. Gordon and Rev. S. T. Morris were nominated. The vote was by ballot and at 3'o'clock Brother Bradley declared the poles closed. The clerk read the results of the count and Rev. Rendleman received 24 out of 32 votes. Deacon Bradley declared him elected and Rev. Rendleman preached the Dedication Service for the new church. Rev. C. R. Taylor of Murphysboro was elected Pastor to the Church February 24, 1907. As he served in the church as pastor, Rev. J. B. Davis, a member of the church passed away and the following was written:

#### RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

Whereas, the Supreme Ruler in His infinite wisdom,  
has removed from our church  
our esteemed friend and beloved brother in Christ,  
Rev. J. B. Davis; and, Whereas, in the death of our Brother Davis,  
which occurred on the 3rd day of January, A. D. 1908,  
the Denmark Free Baptist Church,  
has lost one of it's most faithful and ardent supporters,  
his wife and children, a kind and devoted husband and father,  
the community, an upright and useful citizen;  
be it Resolved, that our Church extend to the bereaved family  
our deepest sympathy in their time of sorrow and affliction;  
and be it further Resolved,  
that as a token of respect for the memory of our departed brother,  
the church house be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days;  
that a copy of these resolutions be given to the bereaved family,  
and a copy be spread upon the records  
of the Denmark Free Will Baptist Church.

These Resolutions of Respect were written by Lew Bradley and adopted by the church. In two months, Rev. C. R. Taylor, Pastor of the church died and the following Resolution of Respect was written for him.

### RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

Whereas, the Supreme Ruler in His infinite wisdom,  
has removed from our church  
our esteemed friend and beloved brother in Christ,  
Rev. Charles R. Taylor; and, Whereas, in the death of our Brother Taylor,  
which occurred March 1st, A.D. 1908,  
the Denmark Free Baptist Church,  
has lost a loyal and honored pastor,  
his wife and children, a devoted husband and father,  
the community, an upright and useful citizen;  
be it Resolved, that our Church extend to the bereaved family  
our deepest sympathy in their time of sorrow and affliction;  
and be it further Resolved,  
that as a token of respect for the memory of our departed brother,  
the church house be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days;  
that a copy of these resolutions be given to the bereaved family,  
and a copy be spread upon the records  
of the Denmark Free Baptist Church.

Written by: Lew Bradley

After the death of Rev. Taylor, Rev. J. F. Kirk was elected to be Pastor of the church on April 1, 1908.

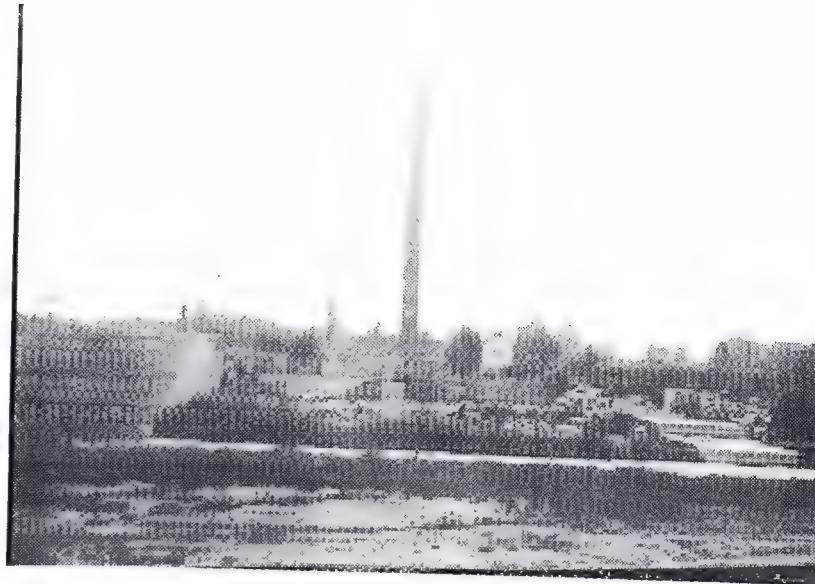
In the minutes of the business meetings the church was called Pipestone Free Will Baptist Church in July 1903 but also called Denmark Free Baptist Church in the December 10, 1904 business meeting minutes. On June 5, 1926, a motion was made to change the name from Pipestone Baptist Church to Denmark Baptist Church. The motion carried. Rev. Hendrickson was pastor at this time.

The church built in 1901 was a frame building with an entrance to the East. The pulpit was on the East end of the church but was later moved to the West end. A pot belly stove stood in the middle of the church with pews in front and back of it. There were kerosene lights hanging from the ceiling and at a later time a 32 volt Delco battery system was used to power the lights in the church. This system was housed in a lean to on the south side of the church.

At the November 8, 1939 business meeting a motion was made and carried to build a basement under the church. It was decided to begin in the spring of 1940. The men jacked up the church and did the work. A heating system was installed in the finished basement. Also, in 1940, the Trustees were authorized by the church to make arrangements with Rural Electric for electricity.



Burning Church



Fire Remains

On Sunday afternoon, June 21, 1942, the church was destroyed by fire. It was caused by lightening. There had been morning worship service and Rev. D. J. Unruh had used for his text at the 11 o'clock service Roman 8: 28. The men of the church rushed in to save the things they could. The pews from the sanctuary and tables from the basement were taken out. Lyle Bigham and John Bradley went into the church and saved the Bronze Plaque in the church that is in memory of C.E. Hallbauer.

Wesley and Vera Heine lived across the road from the church when lightening struck. He said the fire was in the bell tower and the men carried water up to put the fire out, but the water just came back on them. Wesley, along with other men of the church tried to bring the piano out of the basement, but they couldn't get it up the stairs. They were being told to come out as the church was going to fall in and Bill Heine was on the bottom side of the piano and had to crawl over the top of the piano to get out. The piano was lost, as was the building.

On June 27, 1942, a meeting was called for the purpose of making plans for the rebuilding of a new church. A motion was made that they make plans for rebuilding at once. It carried unanimously. A vote was then taken on the type of material to be used. Glazed tile was chosen. As the church was destroyed during WWII building supplies were hard to come by. The congregation received permission to obtain the necessary materials to rebuild. The lumber was donated from a stand of timber owned by Florence Luthy's father, Mr. Schupbach. He hauled the lumber to the building site with a team of horses and wagon.



Reconstruction

The new church was rebuilt and dedicated May 2, 1943. The following was written and placed in the cornerstone of the new building:

## IN THE CORNERSTONE

The Denmark Baptist Church, first called the Pipestone Baptist Church,  
was organized in 1848 in the home of E. T. Reese.

The charter members were E. T. Reese and wife,

Independence Jenkins and wife,

R. S. Hood, Ambrose Bradley and wife, and Polly Ernest,  
also perhaps others whose names are not now known.

Services were held in the homes of the members for sometime.

Our church belonged to the Nine Mile Association,

but during the Pastorate of Rev. Henry Gordon,

a controversy over closed communion occurred

and we withdrew from them and became Free Will Baptist.

Rev. R. S. Davis was our next Pastor.

The church then purchased a brick building

from the Presbyterians in Denmark

and used that for services until 1902.

They erected a frame building on a lot donated by A. J. Axum,  
just across the street from the old church.

This building was dedicated in 1902.

Rev. A. J. Rendleman was pastor at the time of its erection  
and preached the Dedicatorial Service.

The building was destroyed by fire,

caused by lightening on June 21, 1942 on Sunday afternoon.

The Pastor Rev. D. J. Unruh had used Roman 8: 28  
for his text at the 11 o'clock service.

The new building erected after the fire was dedicated May 2, 1943.

Newly Rebuilt  
Church



On Sunday, August 29, 1948, the church observed its 100th anniversary with an all day meeting have a basket dinner at noon. The morning service was conducted and a short history of the church and letters from former pastors were read. The sermon was preached by Rev. D. J. Unruh.

The oldest members present that day were Mrs. Elsie Hallbauer and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Egbert, members for 50 years. The music for the evening service was provided by the Peerless Quartet, singers from the Carbondale Radio station. The sermon for the evening service was preached by the former Pastor, Rev. Wm. Coleman.

At the October 23, 1948 business meeting, a discussion was held and after a vote, new pews were ordered. A communion table and pulpit chairs were to be ordered at the same time. These were given to the church by Mrs. Nettie Bradley. The old long pews were given to Lake Benton Camp and the short pews that were not needed were sold.

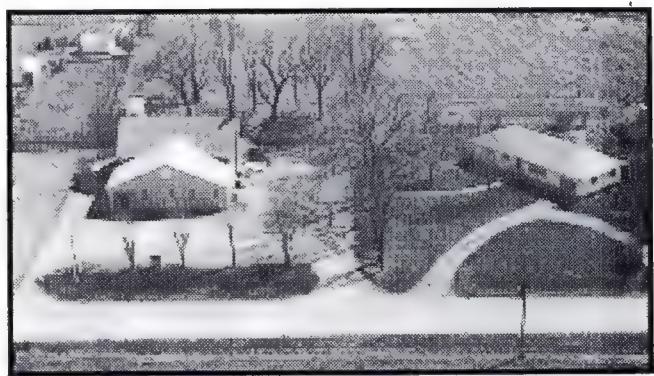
Denmark Church and the Percy Church shared Pastors at one time. The Pastor would hold services 2 times a month in Percy and 2 times a month in Denmark.

In 1950 Denmark Church voted to have a full time Pastor. The home of Chester Higgerson was purchased to be used as a parsonage. The cost was \$4,800. The amount of \$3,000. was paid as a down payment. A mortgage for \$1,800. was given to Mr. Higgerson, who turned the deed over to the church trustees. Rev. Wm. Coleman became a full-time Pastor and was the first to live in the parsonage.

In 1953, a new oil furnace was purchased and installed in the church basement. Central air was installed in 1972.



Parsonage



Aerial View  
of the  
Church  
and  
Parsonage

In 1961 the church voted to build a new parsonage. It was built west of the church on land that was donated by Arch of Illinois Coal Company. It was voted to have the parsonage face northeast and to install electric heat.

The old church parsonage was sold to Ralph and Lula Higgerson. March 4, 1962 a vote was taken to call Rev. Paul Holder as Pastor. He answered the call and became the pastor. He and his family were the first to live in the new parsonage.

The first organ for the church was purchased in 1965. After a few years there were problems with the organ. At the February, 1977 business meeting the church voted to purchase a new organ from the Baldwin Organ Sales in Herrin. A new piano was purchased in 1974 with the old one being given to the Union School Community Center. The piano and organ are an important part of our service, dedicated for worship and praises to our Lord Jesus Christ.

On May 31, 1967, a special meeting was held to discuss putting an addition on the church. It was voted to put the addition on the north end of the church and have the doors open to the east. Cole, Keene & Dunn Construction Company was chosen to build the addition. A dedication service for the addition was held on May 17, 1970 with Rev. Unruh having the morning message followed with a basket dinner and Rev. Madison Bitner had the afternoon service.



The New Building

The pew pads were placed in the church in 1976. They were purchased from R. M. Powells and Company, St. Louis, Missouri.

In April, 1986 a vote was taken and it was unanimous that the church auditorium be remodeled. Ray Wedemeyer, Dale Rieckenberg, and Ed Lodge did the remodeling. Church services were held in the basement during this time. Also, a new gas furnace and a new electric furnace were installed at this time. New carpeting and drapes have been added to the sanctuary.

Some years ago the two large stained glass windows were installed in the front of the church and 6 more stained glass windows have been added in the sanctuary depicting the life story of Christ from birth to Ascension.

The Birth of Christ is told in the first window in the back east side of the church and was donated by The John Edgar Family.

The Baptism of Christ was donated in Memory of Lawrence Mohr.

The Good Shepard was donated by Adam Mohr.

The window of Jesus Teaching the Women and the window of Jesus Talking to the Children , located in the choir area, were donated In Memory of Judy Schorn.

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemne was purchased by the church.

The Crucifixion of Christ was donated in Memory of Bert and Evelyn Uhles.

Christ Ascension into heaven was donated In Memory of Dwight and Gladys Valerius.

These windows have added a special beauty and blessing to the church.

Years ago, Revivals were held for several weeks at a time. More recently, the church has had speakers and messages in songs presented by groups of singers.

Baptisms have been held at the Percy Baptist Church, Ava Baptist Church and at the Murphysboro Baptist Church. Also, baptisms were held at The Community Lake, Montroy's Pond, Waldo Egbert's and Raymond Mohr's Pond, Axum's Pond, Luther Bradley's Pond, and Beaver Dam, also called the swimming hole.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Today there are organizations and activities for all ages to attend, that they may serve the Lord and fellowship together.

The Ladies Mission Society serves to further missions at home and abroad.

The Men's Breakfast is for fellowship among the men of the church and is held at the Pioneer Cabin.

The children have Bible School each year to learn God's word and share fun and games with each other.

The Sunday School Picnic is held each September for all to enjoy and visit with one another.

Members of the congregation participated in the Trico Community Cantata.

Several members attended and participated in The River to River Crusade at SIU Arena in Carbondale, Illinois, where Ralph Bell was the speaker.

Our church helped sand bag during the flood of 1993.

The Board of Christian Education sponsors a monthly activity for the youth. Activities include hiking, a scavenger hunt, a cook out, preparing a meal for the congregation, and bowling.

The men attended the Promise Keeper's gathering in Busch Baseball Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri. They also attended Stand-In the Gap in Washington D.C. It is estimated that a million men attended.

The Women attended a Focus on the Family gathering, "Renewing of the Heart", in the Nashville Tennessee Arena, Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. James Dobson was the main speaker with approximately 19,000 women attending.

Members attended a community prayer service held at the Trico High School Auditorium during the Gulf War.

Cornerstone Sunday was held on May 17, 1998. The cornerstone was removed and the contents were revealed. A glass bottle containing a short history and a list of members and friends of the Denmark Church that had taken part through gifts to make possible the erection of the church building was found.

The Sunday School and Church are for all to worship God, to receive his blessings and to fellowship with others.

Many families have started their Christian faith at the Denmark Baptist Church, which has carried them through their lifetime wherever they were called to serve.

The goal of the church in the future is to further God's word to serve the Church family, the communities around us and in Missions home and abroad.

With God's Grace, the Church wants to continue it's service to others for many years to come.

May God bless everyone that has attended and worked in the church in the past and all that will come into the church to work in the future. We pray for God's continued blessings and divine guidance.

## ACTIVITIES



Pastor Spurlock baptizing Lela (Hanna) Schumach, Florence (Luthy) Schumach, and Grace (Higginson) Reese at Jack Axle's pond.



Children on Steps



The Living Cross

## ACTIVITIES



Carolers



Christmas Play



Bible School

## ACTIVITIES



Senior Ladies



1980's  
Congregation

## ACTIVITIES



Children's  
Sunday School



Men's  
Sunday School



Old Time  
Sunday School

**DENMARK BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LIST**  
**MARCH 28, 1998**

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

Susan Carter  
Belinda Conner  
Scott Conner  
Audra Edgar  
Connie Edgar  
Gilbert Edgar  
Homer Edgar  
Lorna Edgar  
Tim Edgar  
Vivian Edgar  
Cody Edwards  
June McDaniel  
Brenda Egbert  
David Egbert  
Jeff Egbert  
Larry Fisher  
Paula Fisher  
Alice Greene  
Sherry Fitch  
Deanna Hammel  
Deborah Hammel <sup>Fried</sup>  
Heather Hammel <sup>Hammel</sup>  
Bryan Heine  
Matthew Heine  
Marilyn Heine  
Richard Heine  
Don Hicks  
Travis Hicks  
Elaine Holder  
Mike Jennings  
Patsy Jennings  
Heather Johnson  
Peggi Johnson  
Randy Johnson  
Donna Long  
Florence Luthy  
Anna Milligan  
Clarence Misselhorn  
Darlene Misselhorn  
Eleanor Edgar

**INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

David Misselhorn  
Judy Misselhorn  
Todd Misselhorn  
Travis Misselhorn  
Bill Mohr  
Ruth Mohr  
Linda Musselman  
Robert Musselman  
Rohn Musselman  
Shelby Olson  
Ruth Ann Plymale (Mohr)  
Lori Reese  
Valerie Ruch  
Brent Schorn  
Clarence Schorn  
Fred Schorn  
Lana Schorn  
Nora Schorn  
Wilma Schorn  
Denise Schrader  
Brian Sheridan  
Etta Sheridan  
James Sheridan  
Dorothy Smith  
Michael Smith  
Rick Smith  
Vicki Snider  
Cammie Valerius  
Danny Valerius  
Lee Valerius  
Mary Valerius  
Delores Wagner  
George Wagner  
Goldie Breiye (Moore)  
Ruby Cagle  
Jean Campbell  
Russel Campbell  
Pauline Carter (Smith)  
Ross Cottom  
Tony Creamer  
Amanda Davenport  
Grace Davis  
Larry Davis  
Vicki Dellinger (Eldridge)  
Brenda Ebers (Gall)  
Margaret Edgar  
Randall Edgar  
Travis Edgar  
Richard Eldridge  
Glenn Griffin  
Grace Hallbauer  
Nicole Hartenberger  
Dejah Hermány (Lipe)  
Fred Higgerson  
Jerry Higgerson  
Steven Higgerson  
William A. Higgerson  
William R. Higgerson  
Jo Ann Holliday  
Troy Kimbrough  
Scott Long  
Darlene Mitchell  
Lowell Mitchell  
Nancy Moore  
Mike Parker  
Erna Phillips (Bigham)  
James Reese  
Debbie Rice  
Rick Rice  
Phillip Schwebel  
Verna Stout  
Bill Yankey  
Matthew Yankey

## PASTORS OF DENMARK

Elder R. G. Davis - 1848

Rev. Henry Gordan

Rev. A.J. Rendleman - March - 1897 - August 3, 1901

Rev. S. T. Morris - August 31, 1901 - August 2, 1902

Rev. C. F. Stalker - August 31, 1902 - 1904

Rev. C. S. Carroll - October 1, 1904 - 1905

Rev. C. F. Statker - October 1, 1905 - 1906

Rev. W. W. Jacobs - September, 1906 - December, 1907

Rev. C. R. Taylor - February 24, 1907 - March 1, 19008

Rev. J. F. Kirk - April 1, 1908 - August, 1908

Rev. A. J. Rendelman - September, 1908 - August, 1909

Rev. Pitman - September 1, 1909 - August, 1910

Rev. W. R. Spurlock - November 1, 1910 - August, 1916

Rev. Wm. Coleman - August 1916 - August, 1918

Rev. Wm. Coleman - August 1918 - August, 1920

Rev. Guy G. Chapman - 1920 - August 1, 1921

Rev. W. R. Spurlock - September, 1921 - November, 1921

Rev. Orville Hendreckson - March, 1921 - August 1925

Rev. Oscar Meyerscough - September, 1925 - 1930

Rev. Ivan Beck - March, 1930 - November, 1932

Rev. Harry Comer - May 7, 1935 - 1938

Rev. D.J. Unruh - March, 1939 - November, 1943

Rev. Wm. Collier - August, 1945 - August 4, 1946

PASTORS, CONT.

Rev. Wm. G. Webber, January 15, 1947 - March 5, 1948  
Rev. Stewart Northrop - May 30, 1948 - May 7, 1950  
Rev. Wm. Coleman - July 16, 1950 - March 16, 1952  
Rev. George Eddy - April 13, 1952 - February 22, 1954  
Rev. Audy Burklow - May 16, 1954 - December 25, 1960  
Rev. Robert Issacs - June 1, 1961 - November 30, 1961  
Rev. W. M. Coleman - November 30, 1961 - Supply Pastor  
Rev. Paul Holder - April 1, 1962 - June 4, 1978  
Rev. Paul Ted Minnich - August, 1978 - July, 1979  
Rev. John Travis, July 24, 1979 - , February 8, 1981  
Rev. Gilbert Moore - May 24, 1981 - November 22, 1981  
Rev. Andy Halco, November 29, 1981 - February 14, 1982  
Rev. Paul Ted Minnich, February 21, 1982 - February 22, 1987  
Rev. Gilbert Moore - March 1, 1987 - July 27, 1987  
Rev. Randy C. Johnson, July 31, 1987 - Present

## PASTORS

Each Pastor that came and served the church must have had a story, but information is not available on most of them. There are five that we have information on. They are the following:

**REV. HENRY GORDON**



REV. H. S. GORDON.

The first to serve as Pastor to the church organized in 1848 called Pipestone Baptist Church was Elder R. G. Davis. He became ill after serving as Pastor for about a year and it was then that Rev. Henry Gordon became Pastor to the newly organized church.

Rev. Henry Gordon was born on June 19, 1816, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He was the oldest child of George and Nancy Gordon, who were both descendants of Scotland.

The family from which Rev. Gordon descended, emigrated to this country in 1697, and his grandfather was born upon the Atlantic Ocean during the voyage to this country. This branch of Gordons was known in the U. S. as the Cumberland Valley Gordons, as there were a number of them living in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Rev. Gordon, as a child, was raised in Missouri along the Meramac River, where his father built and operated a grist mill. Here he grew into manhood.

At the age of 19 he married Miss Rebecca Young in 1835 and at the time of his marriage, his father gave him 100 acres of land. After a short time he sold his land for \$1,200. and moved to Southern Illinois in 1837. He moved onto wild prairie land in Short's Prairie, about one and one-half miles east of Georgetown, (now called Steeleville). Times were difficult and during this time he lost his first-born, a two year old daughter. Another daughter, Mary was born soon after.

In about 1837 he united with the Baptist Church at Georgetown, later called Steeleville after George Steele, who was founder of the town and who operated a large grist mill. After uniting with the church, they ask Brother Gordon to use his gift of speaking. This he did and he was then ordained by the Missionary Baptist Church to preach the Gospel.

He soon realized that his education was inadequate for this important mission, so he took his wife and his daughter, Mary, and went to Alton, Illinois, in order that he may attend Shurtleff Theological College. He remained in college for about two years. He worked evenings, mornings and Saturdays for his and his family's board. He chopped cord wood and split rails. At this time their first son was born. They also had two more sons.

In 1848 Rev. Gordon lost his wife Rebecca, and he had to take on the responsibilities of caring for a family.

On November 6, 1849, he married Mrs. Nancy Hill of Centerville, Illinois. She had one son, and to their marriage five sons were born. They had a family of ten children. They continued to live on his farm east of Georgetown - called Short's Prairie.

For the first eight years after Rev. Gordon finished school, he preached all over Southern Illinois. He was quite popular and he was a very able preacher. He organized churches all over the area. The first ten or twelve years his ministry was given to the Missionary Baptist Church, to which he belonged and it was a member of the Nine Mile Association.

On April 28, 1850 in his work as a missionary, he organized a church at Looney Springs, (now Campbell Hill), with nine members. It was announced that at the next meeting the Lord's Supper would be administered. With churches being very scattered in Illinois at this time, members of the new church discussed the church and communion with their neighbors, some of them being Methodist and Presbyterians who wanted to commune with them. The members of the Looney Springs Baptist Church approached Rev. Gordon about the matter of communion. After much discussion Rev. Gordon said the people are right and my church is wrong. In his words, "I yielded to their entreaties and give my consent, although I had never publicly advocated free communion in my life, but their claim was just and their cause scriptural, so I yielded my acquired denominational prejudices." After preaching, he served communion to members and non-members. After doing this he was brought up on charges to exclude him from the Missionary Baptist Church. When he could no longer be a part of the Missionary Baptist Church, he helped to organize a new Baptist

Church in Georgetown. He organized a new association in 1851 with the new Baptist Church of Georgetown, The Looney Spring Baptist Church, Pipestone Baptist Church in Denmark and Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church near Rockwood and named it the Southern Illinois Association of Free Communion Baptist. Under his ministry the churches grew very rapidly. He continued preaching Free Grace and Free Will leading souls to accept Christ. He served the Lord faithfully for years.

In 1885, being advanced in years, he and his wife left the old farm and moved to Campbell Hill. They lived there for about seven years. After selling this property, they went back to Percy, Illinois, near the homestead and built a house where they lived until his death at the age of about 82 years. During his lifetime he didn't keep a diary or memorandum of his work. He didn't believe in egotism or self-praise so there is no record of what he accomplished during his ministry. His son told his father's life story. There is nothing recorded in the church minutes from the time of Rev. Henry Gordon until 1897 Rev. A.J. Rendleman became pastor.

## REV. PAUL HOLDER



Rev. Paul Holder  
and family

Rev. Paul Holder was Pastor at Denmark for 16 years. (1962 - 1978) He and his wife, Ruby Stearns Holder and their four children, Marilyn Heine, Mary Valerius, Dan Holder, and Paula Stull came to Denmark in 1962 and were the first to live in the new parsonage.

Rev. Holder went to classes and Harry Chasteen took him to Springfield where he took and passed the State Board examination for ordination. Rev. Charles Hartman was Area IV Minister when Rev. Holder was ordained at Denmark, in December, 1964. Mr. Henry Kiehna presented Rev. Holder with a Bible from the church.

Rev. Holder was Pastor at Johnston City for two years, Rariton for two years, and Roseville for five years. He retired in 1994. His wife, Ruby, passed away in March, 1994. He then married Elaine Davenport. They are members of the Baptist Church in Steeleville, where he teaches the adult men's class. He serves on the Stewardship Committee and also on the Mission Board.

## **REV. TED MINNICH**



**Rev. Paul Minnich  
and wife**

Rev. Ted Minnich was born June 23, 1907 in Miami County, Ohio. His wife's name was Arvie. He had a M. S. Degree in education from Miami University, Oxford, OH, a major in religion at Miami University with additional work at Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, OH.

Rev. Minnich was ordained in 1953. He worked as a minister of youth and Christian education. He was a camp director for 30 years. He was an elementary school teacher for 25 years. He was a principal and a high school teacher. Rev. Minnich was Pastor and Minister-at-Large for 28 years.

Rev. Minnich served Denmark as Interim Pastor from August, 1978 to July, 1979 and full time Pastor from February, 1982 to February, 1987.

## REV. GILBERT MOORE



Rev. Gilbert Moore

Rev. Gilbert Moore served in the ministry for 55 years. He graduated from Alderson - Broadus Baptist Seminary in 1942. He was ordained by the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Association, West Virginia in 1942. He served the North Parkensburg Baptist Church for 10 years and then to Hurricane Baptist Church, West Virginia. Following this he went west and served the Lander, Wyoming church for 10 years. He has served several churches as interim pastor with the last one being Hulitt, Wyoming.

Rev. Moore served at Denmark as interim pastor two different times. The first was May 24, 1981 - November 22, 1981 and again March 1, 1987 - July 27, 1987.

## PASTOR RANDY JOHNSON



Rev. Randy  
Johnson

Pastor Randy and his wife, Peggi, grew up in Michigan; Pastor Randy in a little farming community called Ovid, and Peggi in the cereal capital of the world, Battle Creek. Both were blessed to have been raised in Christian homes by parents who loved each other and were committed to their families.

Pastor Randy and Peggi met through the Navigators Campus Ministry while attending Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Pastor Randy graduated in 1977 with a double major in environmental studies and geography. Peggi graduated a few months later with a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a business minor. They were married on January 19, 1980 following a three and one-half year courtship and moved to Cadillac, Michigan, where Pastor Randy was serving as a part-time youth pastor in the First Baptist Church.

Their daughter, Heather, was born in Cadillac in May of 1981. She is currently a junior at Trico High School School in Campbell Hill, Illinois.

Besides Cadillac, Pastor Randy also served as a part-time youth pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Kalamazoo and worked five summers at Lake Louise Baptist Church Camp in Boyne Falls, Michigan. Even though he was actively involved in church work for a number of years, he never had any intention of pursuing professional ministry. It was his inclination to serve God through the local church as a lay person but God had other plans.

He wrote in his ordination paper, "After struggling for some time in the secular realm I realized I was never going to have inner peace and be able to effectively use the gifts and natural abilities God gave me until I surrendered to His call. It was not a Damascus Road experience. I did not hear a voice calling my name in the night. There were no burning bushes. It was the gentle prompting of a patient God over a period of years that caused me to realize the direction He was leading me."

So, in the fall of 1983, they gathered some friends together and loaded up a U'Haul truck on Saturday, drove to Louisville, Kentucky, on Sunday, and Randy began classes at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary early Monday morning. "They were pretty exciting times considering we still hadn't sold our home in Michigan, and up until ten o'clock on the Friday night before we left we still did not have any money to go back to school. But God provided. He always does."

After graduating from seminary in December of 1987 with a Masters of Divinity in Christian Education degree the Johnsons were called to serve at Denmark. At that same time, Pastor Randy was offered the position he had been looking for in a substantially larger church with a much larger financial package in Charlotte, Michigan. But once again God had other plans for his life.

"It's not where you serve but who you serve that really matters. Putting God first before your own agenda or the personal agenda of members in your church is not always easy. One thing I have learned over the years is that every ministry has its rewards and its burdens; its joys and its frustrations; its encouragers and its detractors; but the joy of our Master awaits those who remain faithful to their calling (Matthew 25:21)."

## PASTORS



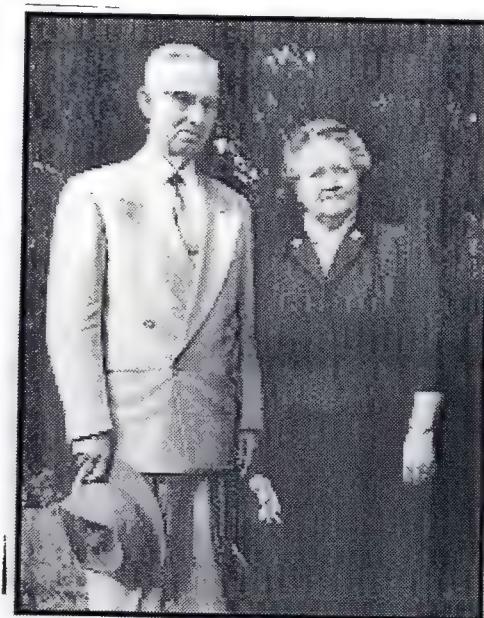
Unidentified Pastor  
and family



Rev. Harry Comer  
and wife

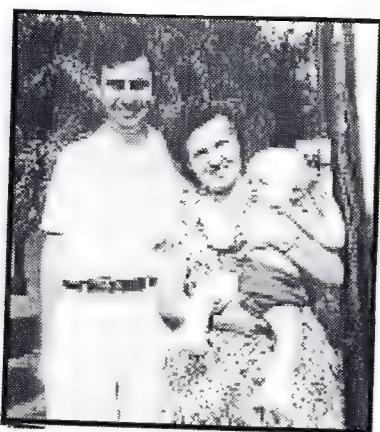


Rev. D. J. Unruh



Rev. Wm. Coleman  
and wife

## PASTORS



Rev. George Eddy  
and family



Rev. Audie Burklow  
and family



Rev. Robert Issacs  
and friend



Rev. Andy Halco

## MEMORIES

On March 15, 1998 there was A Day of Remembrance at the church. Following are some of the memories that were told then along with others.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alice Green remembered that she was baptized in a pond owned by Luther Bradley. She has attended Denmark Church all her life. She was raised in Denmark on the farm that Ruth Mohr now has.

\*\*\*\*\*

An outdoor chicken fry was held in order to raise money for items needed by the church. A committee would go door to door of church members and accept donations of chickens or other food for the chicken fry. The soda was purchased at the Denmark Store from Johnny Higgerson and the ice cream was bought from Kimmel's in Cutler. The teenage girls waited on the tables.

\*\*\*\*\*

Florence Luthy's dad donated the lumber from his stand of timber to rebuild the church after it burned. Florence said he hauled it to the building site with a team of horses and a wagon. She also remembered they came to church in a horse drawn, two seated surrey.

\*\*\*\*\*

Helen Smith was baptized in 1940 in Montroy's pond. There were 18 people baptized at that time by Rev. Unruh. Helen also remembered being asked to play the piano for a church service when she was 9 years old. She knew how to play only two songs. They were "Take Time To Be Holy" and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". Helen told a story about her dad, Erle Hallbauer. He was a small boy when the first church was being built. He stole a rake from the building site and his mother made him take it back.

Charles Hallbauer was very active in the Denmark Baptist Church where he served as Deacon. It is told that one time when a preacher was preaching too long, Charles got out of his seat, took out his watch, went to the front and handed it to the preacher.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Hendrickson, pastor from March, 1921 to August 1925, was a small man in stature. He and his wife were visiting at Charles Hallbauer's and while there someone took their picture. Rev. Hendrickson stood on a stool behind a snowball flower bush so that he would be as tall as his wife.

\*\*\*\*\*

The ladies year ago quilted at the church. They each made a block with their name in it for a Friendship quilt. It is something to remember them by.

\*\*\*\*\*

Henry Kiehna was very active in the Denmark Baptist Church. He served as a Deacon. His favorite song was "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes".

\*\*\*\*\*

Ruth Mohr remembered that Wm. Mohr, Lawrence's dad, delivered mail on horse back once a week in the Denmark area.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Northrup and Wesley Heine would go bowling under the post office in Percy. One time they got into a scuffle and Rev. Northrup's shoe got caught in a crack in the floor.

\*\*\*\*\*

Earla Heisner remembers she liked to sing. She fell down when she went on stage to sing "Away in a Manger" at Christmas time.

Genie Todd Wilcox said that Rev. Northrup and his wife visited after her daughter was born. She had not named her daughter. She and her aunt both asked Mrs. Northrup what her name was and she said Peggy, so Genie named her daughter Peggy after Mrs. Northrup.

\*\*\*\*\*

Erle Hallbauer made a small bench for Grace Hallbauer to put her feet on during church service. It was kept under the church pew. She also warmed her feet on the pot belly stove that stood in the middle of the church. She remembered waiting table at the chicken fries.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Eddy came from Chicago to Du Quoin on the train. Someone from the church would go pick him up and after church services someone would take him back to catch a train home.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Unruh painted barns and helped farmers with their threshing. His son would pitch bundles to Wesley Heine at threshing time.

\*\*\*\*\*

George Wagner rode to church with Bob Bigham and his folks. One Sunday during a prayer he flipped Bob on the ear with his finger and a lady in the church saw him, came and folded his hands and explained to him to close his eyes during prayer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Unruh, his wife and children went to the Edgar's home place for a Sunday dinner. After eating, they sat in the yard and visited. There was a gas pump in the yard and one of the Unruh boys decided to climb up this gas pump. When he got up to the top he opened the door and wasps had built a nest in that area. He got stung on the nose by the wasp.

Mary Lea Collier, daughter of Rev. Wm. Collier, was placed in a laundry basket on the floor during church services.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Todd served the church by helping in Bible School, Mission Society, and Sunday School teacher. She always brought live flowers to decorate the church.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dorothy Jean Egbert Winters remembers that Mrs. Stallins taught a Sunday School class and if any pupil was late, they had to put a dime in a special fund and this was used for Sunday School class parties. Someone in the class asked Mrs. Stallins, (who had twin boys), if she ever whipped the wrong boy. She said she had because she did not punish them at the time they were caught doing something wrong, so when she went out to them, they had moved, and she spanked the wrong twin.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Holder told a story of taking a group from the church on an overnight camping trip. They took soda, hot dogs, and good things to eat. They also took two large tarpaulins. One was put up for the girls and one for the boys. They were having an enjoyable time when along about dusk, up on a hill overlooking them, they saw a figure or something white. As they watched, the figure slowly move down the hill. Eventually it came into the camp area. This white figure finally revealed it's identity. It was Erle Hallbauer with a broom stuck in his pocket and a white bed sheet over him. I'm sure there were a lot of laughs.

**POEMS BY NEDRA HEINE TODD**

**MY SALVATION**

To the alter of a small country church I came -  
To ask for forgiveness of my sins - in JESUS NAME  
The congregation sang - I surrender all -  
And I felt MY SAVIOR call.  
The tears of happiness ran down my face -  
As I realized - JESUS took my place!  
My price - for my sins - HE did pay.  
And now I am free to this day!  
Free - to love and forgive.  
Free - to live and let live.  
Bitterness and hatred are all gone.  
HIS LOVE and GRACE - I now draw on.  
It was not always easy be -  
But, I "know" now I am free.  
Since to the alter of that country church I went.  
It was not my doing - I was sent -  
By a GOD who LOVES us "all"!  
So - please - won't you accept the next alter call?

Nedra Nancyan Heine

## MOTHER

My mother always taught me -  
Some things are never meant to be!  
When things would go wrong -  
She would just start to sing a silly song.  
"GOD is looking after us." - She would say.  
And for HIS WILL - She would pray.  
She always took the little disappointments with a smile.  
And said "things will get better after while."  
Altho there was hard work to do -  
She always found time for fun and silliness too.  
There was always a lesson to be learned each day.  
And always - She depended on GOD to show Her a way -  
To raise Her family to be kind and good.  
She always helped anyone She could.  
----- She was a real - genuine - old fashioned - LADY -----  
and  
She made disappointments easier to take - for you see -  
My Mother believed - Some things are just never meant to be.

Nedra Nancyan Heine

P. S. Mother was

Lillian McIlrath Todd

## DADDY

A fond memory I carry around in my mind -

That oftentimes I find -

Gives strength and courage to carry on -

is

My Dad praying when day was gone.

Late at night - often just by a chair -

I have seen Daddy kneel in prayer -

And all he had on - was his long underware.

Let me tell you - to a child - this is an awesome sight -

To see your Dad all undressed at night.

For he was always ready - always there.

He knew just how to care!

Sometimes it was sternness - sometimes a laugh.

He never backed down. Never let you change his mind.

He truly was - one of a kind!

I later on realized - that was where -

He got his strength - praying by that chair.

He never preached -

He prayed. - And he taught.

By example. He did what he ought.

He went out of his way to help and to care.

And I remember my Daddy - praying in his long underware.

Nedra Nancyan Heine

P.S. Daddy was

Thomas H. Todd

## **LETTER FROM KATHRYN SMITH KUHNERT**

I thank God for the influence that I received from Denmark Baptist Church. I have fond memories of worshiping with my family and my grandparents as a child, of reading with pride the plaque on the wall about my great-grandfather, but the greatest memory of all was finding Jesus as my Savior in this church. Because of the work of such wonderful people as Wilma Schorn, Gilbert Edgar, Clarence Schorn, Ruby Holder, Mrs. Todd, my mother, and many others; I was able to make many positive choices for my life that have been carried with me through the years. I know that this church will always be a part of who I am.

How far does the influence of Denmark Baptist Church reach? As I ponder this question, the answer for my family continued to grow. Currently members of my family (including my brothers and their families) who have been either directly or indirectly influenced by this church reach to these places: Pinckneyville, Du Quoin, Benton, Peoria, Waterloo, Memphis (TN), Union University in Jackson (TN), The Marine Corp in San Diego (CA), John A. Logan College, and the local schools in our areas. From our family we now have two associate pastors working in Baptist churches, a medical school student who expresses an interest in medical missions in the future, an education major who believes he is being called to work with youth in some capacity in a church, and other active church members. Of course we still have some school age children and now there are some preschoolers coming up in the next generation; so how far can one church's influence reach? Only the future will answer that question.

Thank you for allowing me to share.

Kathryn (Smith) Kuhnert

## **SOURCES**

The Life and Labors of Rev. Henry S. Gordon - by Rev. Geo. A. Gordon

Our Candle - by Nedra Todd Heine

Denmark Baptist Church research by Former Pastor - Rev. Paul Holder

Brief History of Baptist in Denmark - by Rev. Randy Johnson

Egyptian Electric Magazine - April - 1961 Issue

Information and pictures from former members, families of deceased members and present members.

